



Info Sheet: Tacoma Pre-Release & Progress House

What is the problem?

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) recently announced that it will be closing the Tacoma Pre-Release facility currently located on the grounds of Western State Hospital as of April 15, 2005 and replace it with a privately contracted work release program called Progress House.

Who is housed at Western State?

Currently, the patient census averages just under 1,050. The hospital houses the some of the state's most vulnerable. The hospital provides evaluation and inpatient treatment for individuals with serious or long-term mental illness including schizophrenia, Alzheimer disease, and dementia.

What is the Tacoma Pre-Release Program? Who is housed there?

Tacoma Pre-Release is a total confinement female facility located on the grounds of Western State Hospital in Lakewood, Washington. The facility houses 140 female offenders low risk offenders. Offenders are not allowed off hospital grounds unless under staff escort or actively participating in either Correctional Industries or Pioneer Industries jobs.

What is Progress House? Who is housed there?

Progress House Work Release is a community residential facility providing residents the opportunity to live in the community under Department of Correction supervision. Progress House program is comprised of 69 male and 6 female high-risk offenders. These offenders are allowed to go out into the community, unescorted as long as they check in with a DOC supervisor.

What does HB 1614 do?

House Bill 1614, sponsored by **Rep. Green** would ban the Department of Corrections from locating any program that serves violent offenders on the grounds of state hospitals.

Escapes and New Offenses in Work Release and Pre-Release in Pierce County

Inmates in the Tacoma Pre-Release are under considerably more strict supervision than inmates in the work facilities in Pierce County. The following shows the approximate number of inmates (duplicated count) through work release and pre-release in Pierce County between 1998 and 2002, along with numbers of escapes and new offenses.

Roughly 6% of inmates in Progress House, Lincoln Park and Rap House escaped while in the facility, as was true of less than 1% of inmates at the Tacoma Pre-Release during this 5-year period.

Escapes and New Offenses in Pre-Release and Work Release

Pierce County 1998 through 2002

Facility	Offenders*	Escapes	Returns	New Offenses	
				Escape	Other
Tacoma Pre-Release	2,345	5	5	2	0
Progress House	1,335	71	66	23	19
Lincoln Park	225	12	10	3	2
Rap House	475	29	25	4	1

*Number of offenders is approximate.

Source: Washington State Department of Corrections.

Currently there are 4 schools and 2 day care centers that lie within a 1 mile radius of Western State Hospital.



What can I do?

1. Contact Eldon Vail the Acting Director of the Department of Corrections and ask that they postpone the placement of Progress House until the complete Facility siting process as described in RCW 72.65.220 has been completed.

Eldon Vail
Acting Secretary DOC
PO Box 41101
Olympia, WA 98504-1101
(360) 753-2500
Fax: (360) 664-4056

2. Contact Senator James Hargrove, Chair of the Human Services & Corrections Committee and Vice Chair Senator Debbie Regala to request a hearing on SB 5428.

Senator James Hargrove
PO Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504-0424
Telephone: (360) 786-7646
Fax: (360) 786-1999
Hargrove_Ji@leg.wa.gov

Senator Debbie Regala
PO Box 40427
Olympia, WA 98504-0427
Telephone: (360) 786-7652
Fax: (360) 786-1999
Regala_De@leg.wa.gov

3. Contact Representative Al O'Brien, Chair of the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee and Vice Chair Rep. Jeannie Darneille to request that they pass HB 1614 out of committee.

Rep. Al O'Brien
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7928
Obrien_Al@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Jeannie Darneille
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7974
Darneill_Je@leg.wa.gov